



# NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY  
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## **GBRA ISSUES RIVER SAFETY ADVISORY**

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SEGUIN-This week's record flooding in the Guadalupe River Basin has forced thousands of people from their homes and created a number of health and safety concerns. Officials of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority are urging everyone to be extremely careful traveling in and around flooded areas or when involved in cleanup efforts.

"Communities from New Braunfels to Victoria have suffered damage to the utilities that normally provide them with power, water, wastewater, telephone and other essential services," said GBRA general manager Bill West. "We hope people will be patient as their utility providers work around the clock to put these services back in operation."

In several areas, including New Braunfels, Seguin and Victoria, wastewater treatment plants were or are currently out of operation and raw sewage has entered the river. In other areas, homes along the river bank may have damaged septic tanks.

Anyone who will be involved in cleaning up flooded locations, or working in standing water, should get a tetanus shot, wear rubber gloves and add chlorine bleach to water that will be used in the cleanup process. People should also be sure that all gas and electric service has been turned off before entering flooded areas, said West.

River banks may also be unstable and should be approached with caution, West said. "The ground is completely saturated and flood flows may have undermined areas that are not visible from ground level. Be careful when working around retaining walls, boat docks, wells and pumping equipment along the river and especially before taking heavy equipment into these areas. Children should be supervised at all times and especially near water."